

Approved For Release 2004/06/14 : CIA-RDP80R01720R000400090036-6

MEMORANDUM FOR THE RECORD

SUBJECT: Linguistic Examination of DRV Government Statement
on Negotiations Released 26 October 1972

STATINTL

[redacted] examined in detail the Vietnamese text of the DRV Government statement of 26 October in order to ascertain how closely it parallels Hanoi's VNA English translation published in the FBIS DAILY REPORT of 26 October (page K 1). The examination was conducted by linguists [redacted]. A transcription of Radio Hanoi's Vietnamese text was available to them, as well as portions of a VNA radioteletype text in Vietnamese. Copies of the Hanoi newspapers containing the text are not yet available.

STATINTL

2. The following points are noted in regard to the nine points summarizing the main issues of the agreement:

a. All of point two, in the Vietnamese text, is a single sentence, with the various stipulations separated only by commas. The first stipulation reads in Vietnamese simply, "Twenty-four hours after the signing of the agreement, a cease-fire throughout South Vietnam, . . ." The Vietnamese text thus omits the verb contained in the VNA English text: "a cease-fire shall be observed throughout South Vietnam. . . ." The verbs in the rest of the stipulations remain intact, and there is no further difference except in the last sentence, where Radio Hanoi's Vietnamese text actually uses the verb "must" ("The United States must not continue . . .") although VNA's Vietnamese as well as its English version uses "will."

b. Similarly, in point three, the Vietnamese text does not contain any verb, although the VNA English text says "shall be carried out." Also, instead of "simultaneously," the Vietnamese term would be more faithfully translated "in parallel (song song)." Thus the Vietnamese text of point three reads: "The return of all captured and detained personnel of the parties in parallel with the U.S. troops' withdrawal."

3. Elsewhere in the text, one possibly significant difference is noted. VNA's English version of the sentence at the bottom of page K 1 in the referenced DAILY REPORT contained more specifics than the Vietnamese. Where the English version says, "From the enforcement of the cease-fire to the installation of the government

FOR OFFICIAL USE ONLY

Approved For Release 2004/06/14 : CIA-RDP80R01720R000400090036-6

formed after free and democratic general elections, . . ."
the Vietnamese text says only: "From the time of the cease-fire
until the time that there is a government elected through
democratic and free general elections. . ."

4. Differences between the Vietnamese and VNA's English
version of the remainder of the text are minor. In the portion
telling of the sequence of initialing and signing the agreement,
the Vietnamese word used throughout is ky, which would normally
mean "sign" but can also be used for "initial." Similarly, the
words van ban are translated variously as "text" or "formulation"
in the English text. There are a few places where the VNA
English version is not a fully accurate translation of the
Vietnamese (English: "We had rather sacrifice everything than
submit." Vietnamese: "We would rather sacrifice everything;
we positively will not submit"), but no pattern can be found and
these differences seem of no real significance.

STATINTL



Approved For Release 2004/06/14 : CIA-RDP80R01720R000400090036-6

FOR OFFICIAL USE ONLY